

This bill will make our operation nonviable. We would be forced to either lay off people or cut down hours and cause our nursery to fall into disrepair.

Dear Sirs and Madams: We are a family farm that employs 6 full time employees. (We keep our people all year so they have a dependable source of income.) We are part of the nursery industry, a major factor in Oregon's GDP. Generally, we are not political but this bill threatens our ability to operate. We are faced with increased costs everyday for example shipping went from \$4,000. a truck to \$4,500. and now to \$5,000 to the same destination. This is causing our customers to rethink ordering from Oregon. This bill would cause us to have to raise prices that would definitely make us unable to compete with other markets in the US. Already, we see buyers changing their buying patterns to save on shipping.

If this bill passes, we will have to cut hours and our employees would have to find other employment to supplement their income, probably at less per hour than they make here. Farming is a risky business. It takes a minimum of 5 years to bring a tree to market so we have to gamble 5 years out. In that time, the tree may go out of favor and we are stuck with an unsalable item. We also have to gamble on the weather and our equipment is very expensive. We appreciate our employees and don't want to take advantage of them. Our way of thanking our employees for all their hard-work is to give a shipping bonus in the years we actually make a profit. When the nursery is successful, they share in that success. In the bad year, they know they have a job and an income. Please, don't try and blanket legislate us. It is a case of good intentions going bad. Thank you.